

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 122703

FOLLOWING REPEAT USUN NEW YORK 1869

SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO BEIRUT JERUSALEM TEL AVIV MAY 09.

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 01869

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, MARR, IS

SUBJECT: HERZOG ON IMPLICATIONS OF UNIFIL FOR FUTURE

1. DURING DINNER CONVERSATION WITH AMB. LEONARD ON MAY 8, ISRAELI PERM REP HERZOG COMMENTED ON FAVORABLE REACTION THERE HAS BEEN IN ISRAEL TO UNIFIL OPERATIONS. LEONARD ASKED WHETHER THIS ATTITUDE WOULD EXTEND BEYOND UNIFIL AND PERHAPS AUGUR WELL FOR FUTURE PEACE SETTLEMENT; NAMELY, MIGHT ISRAEL BE MORE RECEPTIVE NOW TO UNIFIL-TYPE PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS IN OTHER SECTORS. HERZOG REPLIED WITH A STRONG AFFIRMATIVE WHILE MAKING CLEAR THAT THIS WAS PREDICATED ON CONTINUED "SUCCESS" OF UNIFIL. (NOTE: IN THIS REGARD WE NOTE THAT PM BEGIN DURING HIS RECENT TALKS IN WASHINGTON AND ELSEWHERE IN THE U.S. REFERRED OFTEN TO THE IMPORTANCE OF THE UN ROLE IN THE SINAI AREA.)

2. RESPONDING TO LEONARD'S QUESTION ON WHAT HERZOG WOULD EXPECT OF UNIFIL IN ORDER TO TERM IT A SUCCESS, HERZOG
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SAID THAT HE REALISTICALLY DID NOT EXPECT UNIFIL TO BE ABLE TO STOP THE INFILTRATION OF ALL ARMED PALESTINIANS/ LEBANESE LEFTISTS INTO THE AREAS VACATED BY THE IDF IN THE SOUTH. HOWEVER, HE WOULD EXPECT UNIFIL TO PREVENT THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF ORGANIZED AND HEAVILY ARMED STRONGHOLDS IN THE SOUTHERN REGION.

3. COMMENT: HERZOG IN HIS FINAL WEEKS IN NEW YORK APPEARS RELATIVELY RELAXED AND NOTABLY LESS ACTIVE ON THE LEBANESE QUESTION THAN WE WOULD NORMALLY EXPECT. HE SEEMS CONTENT TO PERMIT MOST OF THE ACTION TO FALL TO HIS STAFF HERE (AMB. ELIAV). HE APPEARS TO BE LOOKING FORWARD WITH INTEREST TO RESUMING HIS FORMER ACTIVITY AS PUBLIC NEWS COMMENTATOR UPON HIS RETURN TO ISRAEL AND HE MAY WELL BE CONSIDERING POLITICAL ACTIVITY. HE IS ALSO PUTTING FINAL TOUCHES ON A NEW BOOK, A MILITARY ANALYSIS OF THE BATTLES OF THE BIBLE. YOUNG UNQUOTE VANCE

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